

Entered at the Postoffice at Accomack C. H., Va., as second-class matter.

Oyster Bill in the Interest of Mr. Ellinger and Non-Residents.

EDITOR ENTERPRISE:—I have before me a bill relative to the planting and taking of oysters in this State, recently introduced in the Senate by a Mr. Jones of one of the mountain counties, which by reason of exceptional favors granted in said bill to our Mr. Ellinger, of Fox Island, has become known as the "Ellinger Bill." This bill, while it seems to embody some good features, contains others repugnant to our sense of right and justice, and still others that if enacted into law will work a great hardship upon our laboring oystermen. The purpose of this communication is to inform our people generally and as soon as possible of the most salient features of the bill affecting those of them engaged in the taking and planting of oysters, in order that they might know of the impending evil, and take steps at once by petitions and meetings to protect themselves if possible from the threatened injury. No time should be lost in presenting their remonstrances at Richmond, either by delegations composed of the right sort of gentlemen, or failing in this, by petitions, addressed to the General Assembly. I am assured that the evil provisions of this bill are being fought stubbornly by the solid delegations of our two counties, and by tide-water representatives generally, but I am sorry to say that their chances of saving our people from the iniquities of this measure, are greatly lessened, if not wholly nullified by the active opposition of paid lobbyists and others. The first section of the bill named requires that every tonger shall, before he takes an oyster, register. He shall then appear on every Monday during the oyster season before the county treasurer, and pay on the value of his week's catch of oysters, the same rate of tax, as is paid to the State by taxpayers on other property, and shall in addition appear once every month before the county judge and swear to the correctness of his weekly return, or in lieu of the above, he may if he so elect, pay before he catches an oyster, to the treasurer the sum of \$5.00, for the privilege of catching oysters during the season. Many of our tonguers don't have the \$5.00, and this bill gives them no time in which to make it. It closes the season for tonguing on the 25th of March, and opens it the 1st day of September. It permits dredging in Pocomoke Sound to those who own or plant one hundred acres or more of adjoining oyster beds. If one should own or plant less than this number of acres, he will be compelled to use tongs in taking up his oysters in competition with the much cheaper method of dredging employed by the larger planter, to his great disadvantage. It allows the tongs to take five per cent. of culls, which practically does away with the cull law that has been of so much help in keeping up the yield of our rocks. It prohibits dredging entirely to all parties in exclusively Virginia waters, except to those who own over one hundred acres of planting ground. This provision, besides being unjust to planters of less than one hundred acres, practically confiscates our dredging fleet of 125 vessels worth thousands of dollars, and allows to go to waste thousands of bushels of fine oysters that can't be caught with tongs. It allows non-residents to take up any amount of land in Chesapeake bay—all of it if they should so desire—for planting purposes, and allows them to work their oysters in any season of the year, and by dredging or any other method. This same privilege is also given to planters in Pocomoke Sound. These non-resident or bay planters are allowed to employ anybody, whether foreigners or not, to plant and to handle their oysters. All planters in Tangier and Pocomoke Sounds are denied this privilege, except Mr. Ellinger—he alone can employ non-residents. These last named provisions are wrong in my opinion, for the reason that we have no more good planting ground in the bay or elsewhere, than our own people would soon use, provided the State could and would provide adequate protection to planters against loss by thieves and otherwise. If non-residents are allowed to take up this bay ground, it should be done only in connection with residents of the State, and in conjunction with home capital to the extent that natives should acquire and exercise a controlling interest in the business. Our own people only, should be allowed employment in the planting and handling of these oysters—except that crews of men engaged on vessels used exclusively as "run boats" might be employed. Otherwise I can't see any benefit to accrue to our people or State by these concessions to non-residents—except the few dollars of rental the State may get from them, and this will be but a poor return, in consideration of the ultimate injury this concession will do our home planters and workmen, if granted as proposed without restrictions and limitations of any sort. It should be held in mind that the proposed privileges to non-residents, if once granted, can't with justice be taken away from them. Having seeded these barren bottoms with oysters, it wouldn't be right to rob them of the fruits of their labor and expenditure. Therefore the land once granted to him would be gone forever, so far as its possession or use by our own citizens is concerned. I hold that there is not an acre of good planting ground in the bay that would not be utilized by our own capital and native planters in a short course of time, provided the State guaranteed them security of title, a fixed rental, and protection from marauders; these conditions prevailing there isn't a foot of good oyster bottom in Virginia waters that can with consideration for the future needs of her own people, be given or leased to foreigners. I hold that it is not only the part of wisdom but the duty of the State as well, to provide for the present

and future needs of its own people, before she can make grants to foreigners of any kind. "A man that doesn't provide for his own family is worse than an infidel," so the Good Book tells us. Why could not the same be said of a State that didn't provide for its own citizens first, to the exclusion if need be, of foreigners? Beyond the annual rental, not one cent of benefit will, under the proposed bill, accrue to our people or to our State, not one cent will be added to our taxable values. No provision is made for the employment of our laboring people, and the slums of the Northern cities will be raked for the cheap tramp labor that will be employed in doing the work, that might if otherwise provided, be done by our own oystermen and laborers. It seems to me that it is necessary, in order to defeat the objectionable features of the bill, that the people should hold meetings, pass resolutions protesting against them, also circulate petitions at once for signatures, and forward same immediately to Richmond. It is possible that the worst provisions of the bill may yet be defeated. Respectfully,

N. W. Nock.
Onancock, Feb. 12, 1896.

Jones Retains His Seat.

Elections Committee No. 1, of the United States House of Representatives has decided not to allow J. J. McDonald to contest the seat of Representative Jones, of the First district. In the hearing of the case Friday, 7th inst., Mr. McDonald was represented by General Michener and Mr. Sutton, who based their arguments upon the charges and affidavits made by Mr. McDonald himself and not substantiated by other testimony. Their contention was not only that Mr. McDonald should be permitted to contest, but also that Mr. Jones should not be allowed to submit any affidavits in reply. With regard to the latter proposition Representative Daniel, the chairman of the committee, declared that Mr. Jones should be permitted to file affidavits if he desired to do so.

Mr. Jones addressed the committee in his own behalf, and claimed for McDonald's allegations to be correct he would have to prove that more votes were cast in the First district than there are names upon the poll lists. The total number of qualified voters in this district is 4,312 were rejected, and all of these Mr. McDonald alleged were cast for him. But even if this had been granted, it would still leave Mr. Jones with a majority. Mr. McDonald, therefore, alleged there were 864 other votes rejected, which would bring the aggregate number of votes cast above the aggregate of the roll lists.

In answer to this Mr. McDonald had declared that he had been honestly elected officers were Democrats, and that he had been unable to make his contest during the period prescribed by law, because the Democratic election officers refused to give him the number of ballots rejected. Mr. Jones produced newspaper clippings showing interviews with Mr. McDonald within thirty days of the time of the elections, showing that he knew exactly the number of rejected ballots. Mr. Jones, then proceeding to discuss the election law of Virginia, declared that it had been honestly enforced and had operated satisfactorily. He quoted at some length from a conversation he had had with Chairman McCall of Election Committee No. 3, in which Mr. McCall had said that after seven years' experience with the Australian ballot in the State of Massachusetts, and with a percentage of illiterates much smaller than in the State of Virginia, 10 per cent. of the ballots cast in the last election were rejected. The percentage of rejected ballots in Virginia upon the first trial of the Australian system, and with a great number of illiterate voters, was surprised to learn, was not more than 15 per cent.

The vote against McDonald's petition in the committee was unanimous. Mr. Jones had three affidavits ready to be introduced—one from Dr. Le Cato, State Senator from Accomack and Northampton, and two others, but found it unnecessary to present them.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Soldiers' Home at Richmond during its twelve years of existence has admitted 1092 Confederates of whom 166 died there, 122 were dropped from the roll at their own request, 104 were dropped for being absent without leave, 37 dropped for cause, and 19 sent to asylums. There are now there 252, of whom 36 are in the hospital.

The Southern States Magazine publishes a report on the corn crop of the South which shows that during 1895 the crop amounted to 607,665,017 bushels, of which Virginia raised 32,607,158 bushels, as against 32,195,868 in 1894. Adding to the corn crop wheat and oats, the total exact figures of which are not yet obtainable, we have for the South a total grain production in 1895 of about 740,000,000 bushels.

All the truckers around Norfolk will commence planting potatoes this week. Some have already planted. The spring cabbage are heading out and coming on finely, and shipments will commence early. The crop is large in every direction. The truckers just now have all their forces at work preparing for their early spring crops, cutting and shipping kale, &c. The kale season has been an average one. The trucker says if he can get fifty cents a barrel for kale there is money in the business and he very frequently gets more than fifty cents.

The twentieth annual session of the Young Men's Christian Association's Convention of the State of Virginia will begin in Portsmouth next Wednesday and continue for days. About three hundred delegates are expected, representing all parts of Virginia, with many visitors from other States who are prominent in the association work. The opening exercises will be in charge of Rev. E. T. Dabney of Batesville, Va., with prayer service by G. A. Overdorf of Hampton. The good people of that city are preparing to give the delegates a hearty welcome, and much good will doubtless result.

Business Locals.

NOTICE—All persons are hereby forewarned from trespassing on my oyster bottoms. I will assert my right, both by grant and deed, to them through the courts against all trespassers. Ralph Burroughs.

FOR SALE—Denver's yellow onion sets, at \$1.75 per bushel. W. D. Lewis, Onancock, Va.

WANTED—By a young man, who has had considerable experience, and can give best of references, position as clerk in country store. Address Lock Box 23, Wachapreague, Va.

Smokettes cigars are the best.

Try a Smokette and if not satisfied ask for your money.

Ask your dealer for Smokettes cigar.

F. A. Davis & Co., are wholesale agents for Smokettes.

Smokettes are the greatest nickel cigar on earth.

F. A. Davis & Co., Baltimore, sell Smokette cigars and Boss tobacco.

Chew Boss 11 inch tobacco, the best 11 inch.

If you want quality and quantity chew Boss 11 inch.

Boss 11 inch is boss of the road.

FOR SALE—Corn delivered at Kendall Grove Station, Box Tree landing on seaside, or my landing on bay side at two dollars (\$2) per barrel. Robinson Nottingham, Eastville, Va.

NOTICE—All persons are hereby notified to remove all stock from Cedar Island without further notice. All persons are permitted to gun, fish and use said island for pleasure purposes if they so desire. E. J. Foote, agent.

FOR SALE—By the undersigned, 30 hogs and 75 barrels of corn. N. Fairmont, Modestown, Va.

FOR SALE—A small sloop-rigged lighter carries 100 bushels in the hold in good repair, will sell cheap. For terms apply to T. S. Price, Stockton, Md.

FOR RENT—Brick storehouse at Accomack C. H. Possession given May 1st, 1896. Apply to Thos. W. Blackstone.

FOR SALE—By the undersigned about 200 bushels of fine seed oats. B. F. Young, Metompkin P. O. Va.

LAND FOR SALE—Several nice farms of different sizes, water situations, &c., improved with buildings, in Northampton county, Va. If not sold before August, will be for rent for 1897. Apply to T. M. Scott, Onancock, Va.

FOR SALE—By the undersigned, "Early Pink Eye" and "Farmers' Alliance" Irish potato seed, at \$2.50 per barrel. R. Burroughs, Assawoman, Va.

FOR SALE—My house and lot in Drummondtown, containing 5 rooms and 2 halls, on reasonable terms. For full particulars apply to me. S. Lee Milliner, Accomack C. H., Va.

ALL MERCHANTS SELL—Everybody uses Poca's Cough Syrup, Tan Hornehead and Wild Cherry. Why? Because it is the largest bottle for 25 cents, and undoubtedly the best syrup ever made for coughs, colds, croup, asthma and all lung and throat diseases. Because it is entirely free from all poisons such as opium, morphia, Indian hemp and chloroform found in most all other cough remedies. Because it is made of the well-known household remedies tar, hornehead and wild cherry.

NOTICE—We, the undersigned, do hereby notify and forewarn all persons from taking oysters from our oyster grounds and from the stream which divides the same, under penalty of the law. J. W. Heath, W. J. Savage, H. S. Lane and W. T. Groten.

For Sale.

Shingles—heart \$7, sap \$5.

Hay \$14 to \$16 per ton.

Meal, Bran and other Mill Feed.

Hot Bed Sash, Bricks, Lime and Hair, Laths, Shingles and Barb Wire.

Carriages and Road Carts.

Ground Fish and Phosphates.

All kinds of Lumber furnished for dwellings and other purposes on short notice.

All of the above sold cheap and only for cash.

Berry crates for shippers free

H. T. WHITE

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Dealers in

General Merchandise, Coal, Bricks

HAY, GRAIN and all kinds of

MILL FEED

Flour, Lime, Hair also kept constantly on hand.

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Be sure to get their prices before buying.

Hotel Barnes,

—BLOXOM, —

—Accomack County, Va., —

—J. W. BARNES, Proprietor.—

Accommodations first-class and on reasonable terms.

Livery attached and passengers conveyed to all parts of Peninsula on liberal terms.

All trains met.

VIRGINIA—In the circuit court for the county of Accomack, in the vacation of the said court, the 12th day of February, A. D., 1896.

Merchants Coal Company, a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland, which sues on behalf of itself and all other creditors of the American Fish Guano Company, a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Virginia, existing at the time of the creation or execution by said American Fish Guano Company of a certain deed of trust, dated the 1st day of February, A. D., 1896, to Benjamin T. Gunter, Jr., trustee, for the benefit of the Pocomoke City National Bank, and others, and now of record in the clerk's office of the county court of Accomack county, Virginia, against

The American Fish Guano Company, incorporated as aforesaid, Benjamin T. Gunter, Jr., trustee, The Pocomoke City National Bank, a corporation duly incorporated under the laws of the United States, William A. Marburg, The American Net and Twine Company, the personal representative of G. A. Liebig, Senior, deceased, William K. Read, R. H. Wilcox, George B. Hoffman and G. C. Bonnewell, Defendants.

In chancery.

The object of this suit is to enforce the statute law of Virginia providing that said deed of trust shall enure to the benefit of all the creditors of said American Fish Guano Company existing at the time of the execution of the deed of trust aforesaid, ratably and without priority amongst them.

Affidavit having been made before the clerk of the said court that The Pocomoke City National Bank, William A. Marburg, The American Net and Twine Company and the personal representative of G. A. Liebig, Senior, deceased, four of the defendants in the above entitled cause, are non-residents of the State of Virginia, on the motion of the plaintiff, by its attorney, it is ordered that they, the said non-resident defendants, and the said defendant, The American Fish Guano Company, do appear here within fifteen days after due publication of this order and do what is necessary to protect their interests; and that this order be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Peninsula Enterprise, a newspaper published at Accomack C. H., Virginia, and also posted at the front door of the court-house of the said county on the first day of the next term of the county court of the said county.

Test: John D. Grant, c. c.

A Copy—

Test: John D. Grant, c. c.

Thos. B. Quimby, p. q.

BLACKSTONE & BELL.

ACCOMACK C. H. VA.,

DRUGGISTS

A full line of

FANCY ARTICLES,

DRUGS,

OILS,

PAINTS,

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kept on hand at lowest prices.

There has never been a time in the history of our country when we have bought very largely this season, much more so than usual, direct from the manufacturers in the West, for spot cash in order to meet the wants of the trade at rock bottom prices for all kinds of

BUILDING MATERIAL,

—such as—

Doors, Windows, Blinds, Mantels,

White Pine Mouldings, Turned

Porch Columns, Porch Trimings,

Shingles, Laths, Hair, Lime,

Bricks, Cement, and a full line of

Hardware, Cook, Parlor and Gasoline

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Setting Cultivators, Harrows, Wheel

Barrows, Wheel Wood, Coal,

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Paints, &c., &c.

Give us a trial and be convinced

that our prices for goods in our line

are lower than ever known to be in

this country before.

Thanking you for your kind favors

of the past, and soliciting a continu-

ance of the same, we are,

Respectfully yours

E. T. PARKS & CO.,

Parkley, Va.

Fertilizers,

General Merchandise, &c.

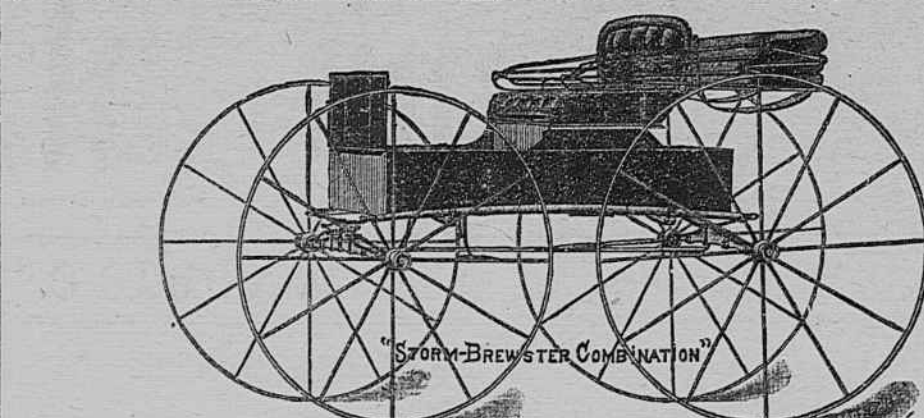
IN FERTILIZERS we have Baugh & Sons Co's, American Fertilizing Co's, "Rogers Best" and "Rogers No. 2," for peas and sweet potatoes.

IN BUILDING MATERIAL we have express shingles and fencing, lime, bricks, &c.

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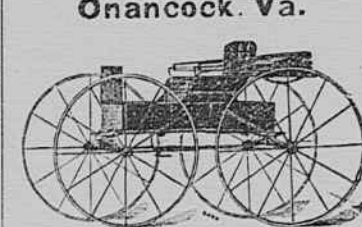


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We are up with the times. Our line this season is made up of Ramblers, Envoyes, Crescents, and Stormers. Prices as low as city dealers can furnish same grade of wheels for. We offer a special inducement in ladies' or gentlemen's wheel for \$50.

FENCE

We are still in the field with Styron's Combination Fence, and make the challenge to any one to produce its equal. Fence erected eight years ago as sound as new. It is, by far, the best fence ever sold to the Eastern Shore people. It will last at least forty years. Send us your orders by mail and they will receive our prompt attention.

We also erect Iron Fences and furnish Tomb stones at a very low figure, and make you our friend by treating you right and saving you money. Estimates furnished on application. Very respectfully yours,

Kelly, Nottingham & Kellam, ONANCOCK, VA.

Special Bargains.

We have a large stock of

Winter Boots and Shoes

on hand which we will give at a special bargain. All boots will be sold at cost to close them out. All winter goods are also marked down so that we will be able to sell them out to give room for Spring stock, and all goods sold at a small percentage. We will give you the prices on a few articles to give you an idea how cheap we can sell you goods—we will have new goods coming in every week to suit the season.

Men's leather boots \$1.35

2 collar buttons 1c

Barlow knives 6c

Safety pins, per doz. 3c

14 rows brass pins 1c

Red coal oil, 150 degrees, 14c

Come in soon and see our bargains or you may lose some of the best bargains, at the one-price store.

WALTER J. HALL & SON,

Belinda, Va.

Read.

The services of my thoroughbred Jersey male hog

Red Duke,

may be had at the farm of Alfred T. Scott, near Onancock, Va. Said Red Duke is of pure and finest stock, and the nominal price of \$1 will be charged. Cash with the service.

WM. T. WINDER.

North St., Onancock

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Our "B." Our "F."

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Containing ten per cent. of Ammonia.

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